

# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED JUNE 10, 1847

## Secret Police Agents in Clerical Garb

Sen. Dodd of Connecticut has called upon the Senate internal security subcommittee to investigate the increasingly frequent visits of delegations of iron curtain clergymen to the United States. "It can be taken for granted," the senator said, "that at least a small quota of our visitors have been communist secret police agents in clerical garb."

Dodd observed that Orthodox churchmen from the Soviet Union and the satellite nations exist and act by the sufferance of communist regimes dedicated to atheism. He said that if the visits were not conceived by communist authorities, they have the approval and support of the regimes in question.

The senator suggests that one purpose of the visits is to extend the influence and control of the "mother churches" in communist bloc countries over the Orthodox church organizations and communities in this country. Another object is to foster sympathy and support for the governments of the communist countries.

The senator charged that the Serbian Orthodox patriarch of Belgrade had suspended the administrators in charge of three Serbian archdioceses on the North American continent and had assumed direct control over these archdioceses. Mr. Dodd said he was also informed that the Orthodox synod in Bucharest, Romania, had appealed to all Romanian Orthodox clergymen in this country to accept the authority of the "mother church" in Romania.

Sen. Dodd acknowledges the possibility that some of the clerical visitors from communist Europe are men of God who are doing their best to keep religion alive under trying circumstances. But there is abundant evidence from soviet defectors and others that high ranking prelates in the Soviet Union have been secret police operatives and that the Orthodox church

in Russia is an appendage of the soviet state.

Patriarch Alexis of Moscow at the time of the Korean war accused the United States of germ warfare, called American soldiers savages, denounced Gen. MacArthur as another Hitler, and said the United States, not the North Korean Communists, committed aggression.

Metropolitan Nikolai, who visited the United States in 1956 at the invitation of Dr. Eugene Carson Blake of the National Council of Churches, was identified as a member of the soviet secret police by Yuri Rastoroy, a former soviet official who found sanctuary here. Peter Deriabin, a former major general of the soviet police, testified before the House committee on un-American activities that he had worked with Nikolai in the secret police during World War II.

Patriarch Cyril of Bulgaria has served as main speaker at the soviet propaganda "peace" conferences in Moscow. At the time of the Cuban crisis last fall, he protested to the United Nations against the United States blockade.

Many gullible American clerics and other visitors to the Soviet Union have professed to believe that freedom of religion is permitted if not encouraged. The Orthodox church in Russia was hurriedly reestablished during World War II by Stalin in order to enlist its aid in marshaling the support of a repressed people in defense of his tyrannous regime. After the end of the war the church was again discouraged, but for show purposes a few churches of various denominations were permitted to continue services in Moscow and a few other cities.

The faith of the worshipers in communist countries is undoubtedly genuine, but Sen. Dodd is probably correct when he speculates about the motives of certain shepherds of the flock.